

Case RN97085

Serial number: 09/463,525

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL AND NOTICE OF APPEAL

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) An isocyanate composition ~~which is at least partially masked, comprising at least one carboxylic acid function or salts thereof and being at least partially masked with at least one~~ two masking agents, at least one of which contains a carboxylic function or the salt thereof, said masking agents being a product containing an >N-OH linkage, a phenol, an imide, or an unsaturated nitrogenous heterocycle ~~said one masking agent not bearing a carboxylic acid function or salts thereof and said one carboxylic acid function being grafted onto the isocyanate composition by reaction of a precursor of said composition via an agent bearing the carboxylic acid function and a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function, wherein the ratio in equivalents between the carboxylic acid functions or their salts thereof, on the one hand, and the isocyanate functions~~ ~~which are masked, free and which have reacted with the agent bearing carboxylic acid functions,~~ on the other hand, is at least equal to 5%, and is not more than 2/3, said composition having a glass transition temperature at least equal to 20°C.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled).

Case RN97085

Serial number: 09/463,525

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL AND NOTICE OF APPEAL

31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 31, wherein the ratio is at least equal to 20%.

33-36. (Canceled).

37. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 29, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic acid function represents, in equivalents, at least 10% of the masking agent.

38. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 37, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic acid function represents, in equivalents, at least 20% of the masking agent.

39. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 29, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic acid function contains, per masking agent, not more than 4 freely rotating methyl or methylene groups.

40. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 39, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic acid function contains, per masking agent, not more than 2 freely rotating methyl or methylene groups.

41-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said carboxylic acid function is directly linked to an aromatic ring of the isocyanate composition.

44. (Canceled).

Case RN97085

Serial number: 09/463,525

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL AND NOTICE OF APPEAL

45. (Canceled) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein the masking agent not bearing a carboxylic acid function or salts thereof is selected from the group consisting of oximes, lactams, pyrazoles, and triazoles.

46. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said isocyanate composition is formed from an oligo-condensate or an oligomer containing at least one masked aliphatic isocyanate function.

47. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 46, wherein said masked aliphatic isocyanate function is connected via an  $sp^3$ -carbon, optionally bearing one or two hydrogen atoms.

48. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 47, wherein said aliphatic isocyanate function is neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

49. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 48, wherein said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or oligocondensation of monomers, at least one of which contains at least one aliphatic isocyanate function which is neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

50. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 48, wherein said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or oligocondensation of monomers, at least one of which contains at least two aliphatic isocyanate functions which are neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

51. (Canceled).

Case RN97085

Serial number: 09/463,525

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL AND NOTICE OF APPEAL

52. (Canceled).
53. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 27, further comprising an organic base.
54. (Previously presented) A composition according to Claim 53, wherein said base is a tertiary amine.
55. (Previously presented) A powder paint formulation, comprising a composition as defined in Claim 27.
56. (New) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said masking agent containing an >N-OH linkage is an oxime or an hydroxyimide.
57. (New) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said phenol masking agent is a hydroxypicoline or an hydroxybenzoate.
58. (New) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said imide masking agent is cyclic.
59. (New) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said masking agent having an unsaturated nitrogenous heterocycle is a diazole, a pyrazole, a glyoxaline, a triazole or a tetrazole.